

A MEMORIAL  
OF  
MATTHEW NEWKIRK

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Newkirk, Matthew,

The memory of the just is  
blessed









# MEMORIAL.







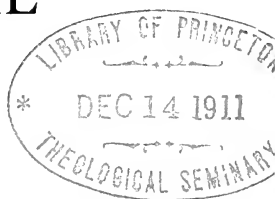
*H. A. Kirk.*

*“THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED.”*

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# A MEMORIAL

OF



MATTHEW NEWKIRK.

PREPARED BY

HIS ONLY SURVIVING SON,

MATTHEW NEWKIRK, JR.

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PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.

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“And I heard a voice from Heaven, saying unto me,

WRITE,

Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord

from henceforth :

Yea—saith the Spirit—

That they may rest from their labors, and their

works do follow them.”

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To

MRS. HETTY MASKELL NEWKIRK;

who, for nearly twenty-two years, was the devoted  
and faithful wife of the subject of  
this memoir:

dividing his sorrows—  
increasing his joys—  
sharing his labors—  
encouraging his efforts—  
comforting his dying moments:

This humble tribute  
of  
*FILIAL GRATITUDE*  
is  
most respectfully and affectionately

DEDICATED.



# A NOTE

## EXPLANATORY AND INTRODUCTORY.

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AT the suggestion and request of relatives and friends, the work of collecting incidents and facts in the life of Mr. NEWKIRK and presenting them in this form has been undertaken. The object is not to exaggerate—not to place an undue value upon the character and acts of the deceased, but so to group the striking features, and so to present the prominent efforts, as to encourage and stimulate others, and magnify the grace of God which enabled him to be so faithful and earnest.

This little volume does not pretend to be a complete and exhaustive history of the life of Mr. NEWKIRK. It is simply a *tribute of filial affection* made from the treasures of a memory filled with blessed reminiscences, and supplemented by the testimonies of those who knew him well and loved him fondly. It is the memoir of one who introduced religion into all his business, and whose living and dying energies were consecrated to the service of Christ in His Church. No one can wonder that the memory of such a life is cherished.

The memorialist humbly asks the indulgence of all who may herein recognize the pen of an admiring and grateful son.

PHILADELPHIA :

1300 Arch Street,

31 May, 1869.



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# MEMORIAL.

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THE personal and domestic history of individuals is often largely traceable to the family ancestry. The country from which the family has come—the language spoken—the circumstances which controlled their migration to this land—and their religious faith, are found more or less to have moulded individual character and action.

MR. MATTHEW NEWKIRK,

the subject of this memoir, was of a Huguenot family from the south of Holland and the northern provinces of France; and, as is well known, the cause of their advent to this new country was a conscientious and unyielding attachment to the Protestant faith. The families of Du Bois and Van Nieuquierck sailed about the same time, near the middle of the seventeenth century, for

this country, because they were restricted and persecuted in the maintenance of their religious views and worship. They became intermingled by marriages; and we discover in the genealogical table which has been carefully prepared by some members of one branch, that the great-granddaughter of Louis and Catherine (Blanc) Du Bois, who arrived in 1660—Elizabeth, married Garret Newkirk, the grandfather of Mr. Matthew Newkirk. The family name had undergone some change, like many others of the same nationality, by residence in this land, and had become simplified so that the Holland birth is hardly to be recognized in it as formerly. This stern and earnest preference for Protestant doctrine, and this determination, which characterized the Huguenots, to surrender and sacrifice everything else rather than it has left its impression upon the family, not one of whom has as yet erred from this old Reformed faith. If we will bear in mind this item of history as we review the life of an honored and honorable member of this large family, we will be able to explain and appreciate a Christian character which has been formed under pious care.

Matthew Newkirk, the eighth in a group of nine children given to Cornelius and Abigail (Hanna) Newkirk, was born May 31, 1794, in Pittsgrove, Salem County, New Jersey. He was named after a brother of his father, and was the fourth who bore the same Christian name.\* The old homestead, which was a spacious mansion, is, at this time, standing substantially unaltered, owned and occupied by a member of the family.

### EARLY LIFE.

As his parents and all of his brothers and sisters are now dead, we have no sources of information concerning his boyhood. Yet the memory of his surviving relatives recalls many remarks which he occasionally made in reference to his youthful plans and efforts. The little leather-covered trunk in which he saved

\* There remain two who have the same name—Mr. Matthew Newkirk, a merchant of Newark, Ohio, son of Samuel Newkirk, and a faithful and efficient Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church of that place; and the writer, a Clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, settled in Philadelphia.

his earnings—the improvement of his time in labor while other boys were indulging in amusements—his desire for acquiring general and useful information, are well remembered.

His education was limited—being confined to such instructions as could be, at that time, received in a country school, and to such seasons as he could be spared by his father from farm work. However, it is well known, and was a matter of some pride with him, that in what he considered the most practical and needful branches of spelling, reading, and writing, he excelled all others in the classes; nor excelled without great effort, because there were many who struggled hard to gain the pre-eminence.

### HIS MOTHER'S DEATH.

In the year 1802 he suffered that irreparable loss, the death of his mother. He was only eight years of age, and she was forty-five years old. Doubtless this event had a great influence upon him and made a change in his after plans. Yet he remained at the old homestead, in the daily pursuits of farm life, giving his help to his

father and sisters, and devoting any spare moments to laying up some money for future operations. He was diligent in his little stock-yard and vegetable garden, from which he gathered and sent produce to the Philadelphia market, and thus obtained money to put in his leather trunk.

### COMING TO PHILADELPHIA.

In the year 1810, at the age of sixteen years, he came to Philadelphia and went to live with Joseph and Collin Cooper, wholesale drygoods merchants (or jobbers, as that class are now called), doing business at No. 39 North Front Street. With them he remained five years, or until he was twenty one years of age, learning the business in which most of his after life was spent. At first he acted as store boy, opening and cleaning the store; subsequently he became clerk and salesman.

### AS A SOLDIER.

During the war of 1812, Mr. Newkirk volunteered in defence of the country, and with many

others from this city went, in the year 1815, to Camp Dupont, near Wilmington, Delaware. The English were threatening Philadelphia, having a large fleet and army on the coast. The portion of the forces in which he served was gathered for the special defence of the city and adjacent country. He was a member of the First Company Washington Guards, First Brigade, First Division, P. M., in which he was promoted to be Corporal.

#### FIRST EFFORTS IN BUSINESS.

In April, 1816, he made his first independent efforts in mercantile life. Entering into partnership with his sister Mary at No. 41 North Second Street, he began with a small retail dry goods store, and labored with diligence and success. This arrangement with his sister continued until her marriage, soon after which the partnership was dissolved. Mr. Newkirk then continued the business on his individual account, and very soon succeeded in securing a considerable wholesale trade. His active, industrious, and energetic nature helped him to thrive.

## MARRIAGES.

On May 1, 1817, he was married to Miss JANE REESE STROUD, a lady of great beauty, who lived only the brief period of twenty-one months, dying with consumption.

On July 2, 1821, he was married to MARGARET, daughter of George Heberton, Esq., a lady of great personal attraction and of superior Christian character. To them were born eight children, four of whom died in early life; of the four who lived to maturity the eldest, Geo. Heberton, died September 22, 1861, Mary Jane Oliver followed him the next month (October 21), William Henry, the next in generation, departing this life March 11, 1864, and Matthew, the youngest, alone survives.

## MERCANTILE LIFE.

About this time (1821) Mr. Newkirk formed a partnership with William Y. Heberton, his brother-in-law, under the firm of "Newkirk & Heberton," and carried on a wholesale and retail jobbing trade at No. 95 Market Street.

In 1824 this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Heberton forming other business connections and Mr. Newkirk continuing on his individual account at the old store. Just then he proposed to Mr. Charles S. Olden (since Governor of New Jersey), with whom he had been acquainted for several years, that he should delay for a few months going to Nashville, Tennessee, where Mr. Olden contemplated commencing business, and remain with him a short time, as by his separation from Mr. Heberton he was destitute of needed assistance. This proposition was accepted. Mr. Olden remained, and in the summer of 1825 became a partner with Mr. Newkirk—the former carrying on the business in the city of New Orleans, where the firm had a branch store, and the latter directing it in Philadelphia.

Business partnerships were formed subsequently with Messrs. John B. Stryker, Francis Hoskins, Ferdinand and Colson Hieskell, and others. During his entire mercantile life he took a special interest in young men, introducing them into the commercial world and encouraging them to form habits of industry and

economy. Some who were considered by their acquaintances to be unsafe and useless became under his training faithful and valuable men of business.

In 1839 he retired from active business, and closed his interest in the store, in order to find improvement for the enfeebled health of his wife in European travel. But her decline and death (on November 23, 1841) changed this plan, and he never saw the country with which he had made himself very familiar by extensive reading.

It was not possible for one of such an active mind and industrious habits to remain unoccupied. And, therefore, his subsequent life was filled with duties and engagements quite as arduous and urgent as any work to which he had previously applied his abilities. The withdrawal from a mercantile house, and the intrusting of it to those who had been educated to it by him, gave him the opportunities of devoting himself more generally to public, charitable, and religious affairs. In July, 1846, he married Miss HETTY M., daughter of Edward Smith, Esq., of Philadelphia, who was a faith-

ful helper in all his labors, and who now survives him.

### UNITED STATES BANK.

One of the earliest public undertakings of Mr. Newkirk was in connection with the United States Bank. During a part of its eventful existence he acted as a prominent and efficient Director of it. Hon. Nicholas Biddle, being an intimate and devoted friend, and at the same time President of the Bank, influenced him to take a large interest in this institution. Thus he became acquainted with many prominent public persons, such as Hon. Amos Lawrence and George Peabody, Esq., and especially with the Hon. Daniel Webster, who made his deposit in this bank, and who intrusted Mr. Newkirk with the management of his interest in it.

### PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON, AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD.

Perhaps the most extensive enterprise in which he engaged was the construction of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Rail-

Road. In reference to this enormous undertaking I will subjoin the words of Mr. Benjamin H. Latrobe (Chief Engineer of the Road at the time), who has kindly furnished me, in a letter, an interesting account of the work.

“The entire line between Baltimore and Philadelphia was built under the charters of four different companies, and no little skill was required on his part to harmonize their action. The one next to Baltimore, with which I was connected, gave him no trouble in that respect, for he furnished every dollar of the capital which it cost, and his word was consequently law here. The section of the route between the Susquehanna and Wilmington was more difficult to manage, as the Wilmington people had contributed largely to its construction from their more immediate interest in it, and there were some opinionated persons among the directory at that place. Between Wilmington and Philadelphia the work was carried on under your father’s immediate and undisturbed control, and with consequent vigor. During the entire progress of the construction of the whole line of one hundred miles in length, which was accom-

plished in little more than two years, your father paid frequent visits to every part of it, infusing his own spirit into every operation, providing the ample means required to carry it on, and directing their effective expenditure. His position as a Director of the United States Bank, and his personal relations with its distinguished President, Mr. Biddle, were necessarily of great assistance to him in the financial part of the undertaking; and had the vast money resources of that ill-fated institution been invested in no worse way than this, it would probably have still survived and flourished.

“My intercourse with your father during the two years of my connection with his work was of course very frequent, and always most agreeable. . . . Although not an Engineer himself, and making no pretension to a knowledge of either the science or the practical details of the profession, his shrewd good sense and sound judgment constantly suggested hints in regard to matters connected with the working of the road when completed, which were of much assistance to those who had the planning of it; for it must be remembered that this was a very

early day in the railway history of the country, the Baltimore and Ohio, called the *Pioneer*, having been opened with *horse-power* to Harper's Ferry only the year preceding that in which your father took the eastward extension to Philadelphia in hand. It was to HIS foresight and ready appreciation of the superior adaptation of the 8-wheel *passenger car* to American railways that its *early adoption* on this line, followed by its universal use on this continent, was *mainly* due. My recommendation of it was at first stoutly opposed by the Wilmington Directory, and it was facetiously compared to 'the car in which cattle were carried on the English railways.' Your father, however, unmoved by unsound argument and sneers, sustained my report in its favor, and although the cars built at Wilmington were at first of the old 4-wheel pattern they were soon stuck together, two by two, and so made like those with 8-wheels. The leading features of the famous ferry-boat, 'the Susquehanna,' at Havre de Grace, were also suggested by your father, and made (until the last two years, when it was replaced by a bridge) the passage of that formidable river as

safe and easy in all seasons as it had been dangerous and difficult in former times. The union of the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Philadelphia railways in one central station was also proposed by your father, and it was an unfortunate day when, after years of successful co-operation in this way, they were subsequently separated.

“If I am not misinformed, the system of ‘*checking baggage*’ owes its *original suggestion* to your father; and I have not forgotten the occasion when, in consequence of some disaster on the road, the trunks of the passengers became so confusedly mixed that no one could identify his own property, it was your father who proposed that property should be proved by the application of the *Keys*. This he himself mentioned to me the last time I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with him of those past occurrences of common interest to us both.

“As my intimate acquaintance with your father grew thus altogether out of our connection with the work referred to, my reminiscences of him relate almost entirely to that part of his life as a public man; and in speaking of him in that connection I have been obliged to speak of

myself in a rather egotistical way; the main object being to give *him* the credit so richly his due as the chief promoter and I might almost say (with reverence to the higher sense in which the words are used in Scripture) ‘the author and finisher’ of that great public enterprise which connected at that early day two of the great cities of the seaboard upon the *shortest* and *best* route of which the country admits. To his character and career as a merchant and man of business, a philanthropist and a Christian, there can be no want of witnesses to testify in a manner that will perpetuate his memory for the instruction and example of others.”

It is only necessary to add that Mr. Newkirk was the first President of this important road, which is still the *only* railway communication between the largest eastern cities and the city of *Washington*. A marble monument erected in testimony of his great enterprise and success in this work may still be seen standing on the line of the road at Gray’s Ferry, on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, below the city of Philadelphia. And besides the improvements in cars, to which Mr. Latrobe refers, it should be said that

Mr. Newkirk suggested and introduced other conveniences for travellers, and as he believed inaugurated the "express" system.

In this connection it is proper to mention that Mr. Newkirk purchased and held for many years the popular summer resort known as "*Brandywine Springs*," situated six miles from Wilmington, Delaware. His family cottage at this place was always filled with friends and prominent invited guests; and the many families who resorted to the hotel there for the summer found it doubly attractive through his constant efforts to furnish enjoyment and benefit.

#### COAL INTERESTS.

The Little Schuylkill Navigation Railroad and Coal Company owes much of its present prosperous condition to Mr. Newkirk's energy and perseverance in seeking to open the vast coal fields of Pennsylvania. He was long connected with this company, and devoted himself to the development of the resources of the land in Schuylkill County. The people of Tamaqua and its neighboring districts will remember his inte-

rest in their social and religious improvement, and his success in establishing a public reading room for the colliers and a church for their higher benefit.

### IRON INTERESTS.

About the year 1854, Mr. Newkirk associated himself with a number of prominent and wealthy merchants of this city for the purchase of the large iron manufacturing works at Johnstown, Pennsylvania. At that time the furnaces were out of blast, and the establishment had well nigh suspended operations. To revive such immense works, and to carry them on at full power, required a great outlay of money and constant oversight. Mainly through his exertions the necessary amount for the early operations of the Cambria Iron Company was raised. Indeed much was contributed by himself and loaned upon his securities that the enterprise might not fail.

This was not a speculation. So many advantages were to be found in Johnstown; such resources of iron ore and coal, such tracts of

timber, such facilities for transportation by rail and by water, that Mr. Newkirk's prompt and far-sighted ability discovered a most desirable and valuable opportunity to develop that region, afford employment to the laboring classes, and obtain remunerative returns for money thus invested.

It was a *vast* undertaking for one who had now reached *threescore years*. Still the ability and perseverance displayed in the revival of this old business, and its reorganization upon a larger and more liberal scale, exhibit an interesting and important element of his character. No real or apparent difficulty or sudden embarrassment daunted him. He was *confident* of the ultimate and abundant success of the undertaking.

In the year 1857, a fire occurred and destroyed the main rolling mill, thus taking the employment from several hundred workmen, and bringing distress into their families. In this emergency Mr. Newkirk was not discouraged, but urged a rebuilding of the principal mill on a more extensive scale. The subsequent history of the Cambria Iron Company and its profitable remuneration of those who have been interested

in it were subjects of gratulation to Mr. Newkirk. He lived to see his prophecies fulfilled, and said often that in the not far-off future it would necessarily become, under judicious management, more safe and profitable than it had ever yet proved.

#### FINANCIAL EMBARRASMENTS.

About the year 1858 the money market was very stringent, and loans of money called for heavy rates of interest. The whole country was disturbed by the general want of business confidence. Nor did Mr. Newkirk escape this embarrassment. While he did not immediately suffer from it, he found that his large investments in this company (which demanded heavy sums to defray its current expenses and did not yield profits for some time after its organization), so crippled and distressed him that he felt obliged, in all honor, to protect those to whom he was indebted. In this crisis of his affairs he sought eminent legal counsel, and upon their earnest advice resorted to an assignment of his property into the hands of a young man hitherto

unknown to him, but an attorney-at-law most confidently recommended as a prudent and efficient administrator of his affairs. In the course of two years all his judgment notes which had been issued previously were satisfied, and the remainder of his estate was transferred to the absolute control and management of Mr. Newkirk. While he would have preferred not to have made this assignment, and was convinced that he could have more profitably disposed of his own property, he did it in order to prove his anxiety for a complete and equitable arrangement with all his creditors.

#### REAL ESTATE.

It was always a settled conviction with Mr. Newkirk that real estate is the safest financial investment. Accordingly he purchased large tracts of land in different States. At one time he was possessor of real estate in *eleven* States of the Union, besides being landlord of perhaps *more* dwelling houses in the city of Philadelphia than any other citizen. In the year 1836 he purchased the large lot at the southwest corner

of Arch and Thirteenth Streets (Philadelphia), upon which he built the handsome marble residence where he resided many years and finally died. The *external* appearance, which was such a remarkable variation from the ordinary two and three story brick houses of that day, and the convenient *internal* arrangements exhibited his architectural taste and skill. Although erected more than thirty years ago it is still a modern residence, and it would be difficult even now to make any improvement on it.\*

Mr. Newkirk was a member of the Committee of the Select Council of Philadelphia to erect Girard College; and here also he exhibited his architectural ability. He was ever the friend of public improvements. When the Fairmount Park was planned, he urged the city councils to be liberal in making it worthy of the city and attractive to strangers. In aid of it he contributed largely both in money and in some of his real estate which lay adjacent.

\* It is the first private residence in this city, we have been informed, in which *gas* was introduced throughout the building.

## EDUCATIONAL.

Although he never enjoyed a complete school education, he was a warm advocate and friend of all literary institutions. For thirty-four years of his life he was an active Trustee of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, New Jersey, where two of his sons were graduated. And at the recent election of the Rev. James McCosh, D. D., LL.D., of Queen's College, Belfast, Ireland, to the Presidency of that honored institution, Mr. Newkirk being the oldest living trustee presided at the meeting of the trustees, and had the gratification of seeing this eminent scholar elected with great unanimity.

He was, also, a strong friend of La Fayette College, contributed largely towards it during its eventful career, and rejoiced in its later successful history.

The Polytechnic College of the State of Pennsylvania almost owes its existence to Mr. Newkirk's liberality and energy. Giving for many years the use of a large building for the benefit of this scientific school, and acting as its presi-

dent for the sixteen years from its organization until the day of his death, it is not strange that he should be mentioned in the resolutions of its trustees as “an illustrious and indefatigable co-operator and friend of the public improvements of Pennsylvania and of the sister States;” and that the cadets of this college should act as an escort at the funeral of their friend and benefactor.

For years he acted as the President of the Female Medical College of Philadelphia, advocating the complete medical education of women for their own sex, for practice in female seminaries, and for foreign missionary work. And when the college was united with another similar institution, he was asked to accept the Presidency of the Eclectic Medical College, but declined.

To prove his interest and his firm belief in this plan he educated, at his own expense, a lady who practised medicine with great success until her death.

## TEMPERANCE.

During forty years of his life he gave his cordial and earnest support to the cause of temperance. As President of the "Pennsylvania State Temperance Society" he exerted himself with his characteristic energy and devotion in holding public meetings throughout the city and State. The fewness of the friends of the cause did not deter him from laboring for its extension. From his first adoption of these principles he abolished in his counting-room the old habit, which was in practice among merchants, of offering wines and liquors to wholesale purchasers. And we remember hearing him say that one morning when he had poured out the contents of his decanters, and had resolved to abandon this injurious custom, the clerks humorously tied a piece of crape around the neck of the empty bottle.

His views on temperance were reduced to the most unvarying practice, so that whoever might be his guest, the only beverage offered would be water, coffee, or lemonade. Rev. Theo. Led-

yard Cuyler, D. D., long a personal friend of Mr. Newkirk, has so well recorded this strong element of his character that I take the liberty of introducing here an article contributed by him to "The National Temperance Advocate."

"A MODEL TEMPERANCE MAN.

"The temperance cause has sustained a sad loss in the death of Matthew Newkirk, Esq., of Philadelphia. He died at a ripe old age, on the 31st of May—his seventy-fourth birthday. He was the oldest elder of the Central Presbyterian Church; and, from his living in a marble house, he used to be playfully styled the 'marble elder.'

"For many years he was the President of the Pennsylvania State Temperance Society, and to his dying day he loved the good cause 'with all his heart, and mind, and strength.' He numbered the celebrated *Henry Clay* among his most intimate friends. Thirty years ago, Mr. Clay came to visit Mr. Newkirk, and spent several days with him. His entertainer invited a large company of the leading lawyers and bankers and merchants of the city to spend an evening with old 'Harry of the West.' A splendid supper

was provided by brother Newkirk for his distinguished guests. All the luxuries of the market and the confectioner were on his bountiful table; *but not one drop of wine or brandy!*

“Instead of intoxicating poisons, Mr. Newkirk provided plenty of coffee and lemonade and Fairmount water. There was a great deal of cracking jokes that evening among the aristocracy, about the ‘cold-water party;’ and some took up their coffee and tea, and drank each other ‘good health’ with great gusto. The next morning, when Mr. Newkirk went down town, his friends met him, and said, ‘Well, Newkirk, we have not got up so bright, and felt so well after a party, in many a year. No *head-aches* this morning! We believe in cold-water frolics; they don’t leave any *bills to pay* next morning.’

“This total abstinence entertainment to Henry Clay was quite the town talk in Philadelphia, and it produced a very happy influence. Would that more men of social standing would follow such a noble example! But the very fact that this case attracted so much attention is a lamentable proof of the general prevalence of the oppo-

site practice. A temperance entertainment in the so-called 'aristocratic' circles is as rare as a glass of 'pure wine,' or a can of unadulterated milk from a city milkman.

"The grog-shops are the finishing-off places of the inebriates who *begin* their evil habits at the social board. Every host who provides strong drink for his guests is (unwittingly, perhaps) a drunkard-manufacturer! The 'woe' pronounced on him 'who putteth the bottle to his neighbor' rests on his head. Of that terrible woe, our honored and beloved brother Newkirk died guiltless. We sympathize with the temperance workers of the Keystone State in the loss of a man who carried his total abstinence into his home, his church, and his social relations."

Mr. Newkirk allied himself with the benevolent and charitable institutions of the city, and gave much time and money to their support. Nearly every afternoon of the week was spent at the meeting of some society. The resolutions of condolence with his bereaved family sent to them after his burial and inserted at the close of this volume, represent some of these institutions.

Advancing life with its infirmities obliged him to resign many of these honorable positions. He was not willing to remain as an officer or member of a committee or society, when he could not perform his allotted part.

His views upon the great question of protection to home industry and public manufactures were very decided, having been early formed and never altered. He did not hesitate to assert that such protection is demanded by the most vital interests of every branch of labor and every section of our country.

In the late civil war his sympathies and gifts were heartily and earnestly and freely given to the support of the government. And yet he rejoiced in being permitted to see the termination of the fratricidal strife, and the glorious triumphs of the nation.

#### RELIGIOUS LIFE.

This was the *most interesting* as well as the *most important* department of Mr. Newkirk's history. His strict integrity, his extensive beneficence, his hearty sympathy with every good

work are all explained by his Christian faith and principle. Religion entered as a very prominent element into all his affairs.

Educated with strict care by Christian parents, he was taught to become a regular attendant upon divine worship, and to consider religion as of supreme concern. And these first impressions were never obliterated. In his early mercantile career, though he was not a member of the church, he was punctually present at Sabbath services, and at the two weekly meetings (on Wednesday and Friday evenings) of the Presbyterian church. He has been heard to say that for twenty-five years he was absent from only two evening services. Even in "the busy seasons" of his mercantile life, he would make every other engagement yield to the more important obligations of the house of God; and though it might be necessary for him to return to the store after the religious meeting, he would make the temporal subservient to the spiritual.

In the year 1821 he was the subject of deep religious convictions. These were received from hearing Rev. James Wilson, D. D., Pastor of the

First Presbyterian Church read a hymn on death, in which the following verses occurred:—

“When clammy sweats through ev’ry part  
Show life’s retreating to the heart ;  
Its last resistance there to make  
And then the breathless frame forsake ;

“When vast eternity’s in sight ;  
The brightest day, the blackest night ;  
One shock will break the building down  
And let thee into worlds unknown.

“Oh, come, my soul, the matter weigh !  
How wilt thou leave thy kindred clay,  
And how the unknown regions try  
And launch into eternity ?”

He made a profession of religion December 13, 1832, in the Central Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, which had been organized that year, and was worshipping in the Whitefield Academy on Fourth Street. The duty of connecting himself with the church was urged upon him by the late Rev. James W. Alexander, D. D., who, on that occasion, rode with Mr. Newkirk in his carriage to church. Dr. Alexander was insisting upon an immediate connection with the church, to which Mr. Newkirk replied that

he did not think that he could consistently take such an important step while he was engaged in an active and extended mercantile business—the two, a profession in the one and practice in the other seemed contradictory and inconsistent. After he had sought thus to evade his duty, and obtain reasons for excusing his neglect, Dr. Alexander turned to him and asked, “*What is that to thee? Follow thou me!*” (John xxi. 22.) It was a critical season, but the decision was made in favor of an open and cordial dedication of himself to God and His service.

Mr. Newkirk’s entire religious life was in connection with the Central Presbyterian Church (corner Eighth and Cherry Streets). He was Secretary of the congregational meeting at its organization in May, 1832. On January 26, 1834, he was elected a *Ruling Elder* in that church; on October 2, he was made a *Deacon*; and from the first election for Trustees on February 5, 1833, to the time of his death he acted in this office.

He was connected with the *Sabbath school* as a teacher previous to his profession of religion, but he was elected and acted as superintendent

of the female department from the year 1841 until 1867, when the schools of the church were reorganized and reconstructed, and he was unanimously chosen to be the *general superintendent* of the infant, intermediate, and adult departments. In 1868 he felt that the infirmities of age unfitted him for the active duties of his office, and asked the teachers to accept his resignation. This they refused to do, insisting upon his continuance in the office with the aid of an assistant. Only two Sabbaths, however, was he permitted to act in this capacity—death interrupting his plans and calling him to rest from his labors.\*

Mr. Newkirk was devoted to all the interests of the Central Church, contributing in every possible way within his ability to the comfort and relief of its pastors—assisting in the improvements of the church building and advancing

\* He gave special prominence to instruction in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, not only in his household, but in his Sabbath school. And one year his offer of a handsome copy of the Holy Bible to any teacher or scholar who would commit to memory and recite correctly the Shorter Catechism, was responded to by more than one hundred and forty persons.

money towards the defraying of necessary expenses. In December, 1867, he took a lively interest in the alteration of the lecture-room, suggesting and overseeing the changes, so that he exhausted himself and contracted cold, from which he suffered greatly.

But he did not confine himself in his Christian labors to the sphere of his own congregation. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church appointed him one of its trustees in 1833, which office he filled till death. In 1838 he was chosen *treasurer* of the General Assembly, in which capacity he served twelve years.

He was an incorporator and trustee of the Board of *Publication*, and served for a time in the Board of *Education*. But he felt deepest interest in the Board of *Domestic Missions*, where he gave the longest service, the most faithful attention, and the most zealous care. The importance of the work in our rapidly populating western field interested him in proposing plans for the obtaining of money to carry forward the operations. Only those who were daily witnesses of his anxiety and toil, and those who were recipients of his bounties can understand the remark that

he engaged in this work of the Lord with as much earnestness and zeal as though it were his own private business. On two occasions, when the board was suffering from financial embarrassment, he succeeded in relieving it. At one time he negotiated a loan with a prominent bank, and had each missionary paid in full with the checks issued by the bank. His policy was broad, liberal, and aggressive—relying on the church to answer every sincere appeal made in the Master's name, and relying on the great Lord of the vineyard to furnish the requisite laborers.\* When he died, our home missionaries lost a sympathizing friend and a liberal supporter. I cannot refrain from appending extracts of letters received from some of the faithful missionaries on our western frontiers; Writes one, he is “the same dear friend from

\* From an examination of the records of the Board of Domestic Missions I gather these interesting facts: Mr. Newkirk was elected a member of this board on May 31, 1834, and served in it until his death on May 31, 1868. He was a member of the Executive Committee all of this time, excepting in the years 1859 and 1867; and acted as Recording Secretary from 1856–1859, and from 1861 until his resignation of this office in 1867.

whom we have heard encouraging words and received material aid more than once. We too have lost a friend in him. And so I believe will many another missionary and missionary's wife feel wherever they shall read the tidings of his departure. An Apostle said of one, 'She hath been a succorer of many, and of myself also.' So will it be said of him. The careworn laborer in many a distant field will pause and sigh as he hears that another such helper has gone."

Another writes: "God gave Mr. Newkirk a high place in the church, and made him greatly useful in the cause and kingdom of His dear Son, and now He has but taken him to a large, though free and gracious reward." Others have written expressive of their sense of personal affliction and bereavement in his death.

He felt it a privilege to contribute towards the erection of church buildings in new fields, and to the support of feeble church organizations in old ones. Many a minister can testify to the cheerful manner in which he made a subscription, when asked, to his church. In truth, wherever he tarried he inquired about the religious privileges of the community, and aided

largely in their maintenance. We need only refer to his gifts to the Presbyterian Churches at Tamaqua and Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where he had coal and iron interests. At the Brandywine Springs (near Wilmington, Delaware), where he spent twenty successive summers with his family, he always provided preaching on the Sabbath for the guests of the hotel, by sending to Philadelphia and procuring the services of some of its clergymen.

When he learned that in the town of Pittsgrove, New Jersey (where he was born), the congregation were sadly in need of a lecture room and session house, he gave authority to the trustees to erect, at his expense, such a building as would be necessary and comfortable for their use, which was done, without any dictation on his part as to the size or cost of the structure.

Mr. Newkirk was a true friend and liberal supporter of the Sabbath school cause, acting as President of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association for a year, and urging forward with his wonted earnestness the great work. This association held their annual convention in Pittsburg, in May and June, 1868—made fre-

quent and touching references to and prayers for their dying and soon deceased President, and on the day and hour of the funeral postponed their regular business to engage in appropriate services. And it was a beautiful and undesigned *coincidence* that at the same time his funeral services were held in this city they sang the same hymn which was sung over his coffin—"I would not live away." They also sang his familiar and chosen hymn—"Sweet hour of prayer," the closing words of which always conveyed to his mind such a happy idea that he would repeat and call attention to them :—

"And shout, while passing through the air,  
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer."

That is the end of *prayer*; then *praise* begins!

His Christian *hospitality* was a striking feature of his character. He was very fond of giving social entertainments to prominent civil and religious personages, and his residence was the resort of a great number of distinguished men. For many years past there have been in this city few public religious assemblies, the delegates or representatives of which have not received a

welcome, and many found a home at his residence. He would entertain as many as his house could accommodate, and would sometimes even inconvenience members of his own household in order to provide for strangers. Nor was it only on special occasions that he thus had visitors. He kept an open door of hospitality for many who came unexpectedly and who knew of his genial and liberal spirit.

The last public entertainment which he gave was at his residence on the occasion of the meeting in Philadelphia of the Committees of the Presbyterian General Assemblies on Reunion (March 13, 1868). The clergymen and elders invited came in large numbers; but even then Mr. Newkirk was hardly able, from failing sight, to distinguish the faces, and in his declining health he could scarcely speak a welcome to his guests. Yet, notwithstanding these infirmities, he enjoyed the communion of these Christian brethren, and expressed his hope that a safe and satisfactory basis for the reunion of the branches of the Presbyterian Church would, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, be soon reached.

All such gatherings were marked with appro-

priate religious services, such as he considered were becoming in a Christian family. Said one who knew him long and intimately, "*Mr. Newkirk never trifled*"—while always cheerful and entering most heartily in every entertainment, he never was betrayed into levity.

#### LAST ILLNESS.

It will be generally conceded, what the most experienced physicians have often pronounced, that Mr. Newkirk was gifted with a remarkably strong constitution to endure the labor, fatigue, excitement, and changes of a varied life. Industrious and earnest in all his work, he was withal strictly temperate and even abstemious. When very dangerously ill at New Orleans in 1835 with dysentery, he was urged to use brandy and other alcoholic stimulants, but he absolutely and persistently refused, and preferred a simpler remedy which proved beneficial. Thus he preserved his natural vigor. Yet with advancing years he could not resist the constant wear upon his strength. His friends noticed the beginnings of physical failure. The quick firm foot-

step became tottering and uncertain—the eye which was so bright and keen to discern persons and objects grew dim—the brain which was so active in plans and projects began to feel the effects of constant exercise—and he was obliged to acknowledge that he was declining. Still he did all that he could for the cause of the Master. The last years were the ripest and richest.

If he could not then accomplish much by his *own* direct efforts, he was desirous of directing and stimulating others. On the morning of Sabbath, the 17th day of May, he attended the Sabbath school of which he was the General Superintendent. So feeble was he that he was obliged to ride to the church and to rest several times before he could ascend the stairs to his room; yet with this weakness and imperfect vision he conducted the opening exercises, and in a remarkably earnest manner urged the teachers to greater diligence and devotion, adding that *he* had determined to re-enter the service with renewed zeal. It was his last visit to that school, which he had so long and faithfully served. His charge to increased effort in

behalf of the souls of the children became, in God's Providence, his Valedictory.

On the night of Thursday, May 21, he was suddenly attacked with a violent disorder in the stomach, and when his medical attendants were summoned to give him relief, it was readily perceived that at his age, with the unfavorable symptoms of increasing blindness and pain in the head, the bodily tenement which was broken and tottering, could not much longer endure. The physicians indeed were successful in arresting and curing this disorder, but soon discovered that he was suffering from that most alarming disease, the softening of the brain. Death appeared inevitable. Mr. Newkirk was aware of his situation, but was not at any moment alarmed at the prospect. When interrogated as to his feelings and hopes, he expressed himself most decidedly as resting simply upon the merits of that Divine Redeemer whom he had known, and loved, and served so many years. His faith was strong, and his mind peaceful.

He loved to converse with those who called. And it afforded him great delight to sing or pray with those who would engage with him in

these exercises. To every one of the family he addressed words of comfort and blessing; and the last words which he uttered, were "God bless the church"—"God bless the world!" Then as the disease progressed he became weak and unable to speak. And thus he lingered until on Sabbath, May 31—his seventy-fourth birthday—just as the clock struck *six* in the evening, his last faint breath was drawn—and he was *dead!* He lived to spend that anniversary day, the last day of spring, with his loved household, and as the night came on, he went to that land where the Sabbath never ends, and the congregation ne'er breaks up. Such was his life—and such his death! the one holy, the other happy.

In concluding this memoir, I venture to affirm that of few men it can be said, in reviewing their lives, what we can honestly say of Mr. Matthew Newkirk—that with his limited educational privileges, his humble beginning, and his unaided labors he accomplished an immense amount of practical good, and helped a great number of weak and weary disciples, and inaugurated a grand system of beneficent agencies. What the Hon. John M. Clayton, Senator from

Delaware, said of him is strikingly true—"Mr. Newkirk will be known as a *public benefactor* when his enemies are forgotten." One monument would not be sufficient to commemorate his virtues and his services.

And now, father, farewell: Thou hast been faithful to me—a guide of my youth—a counsellor of my manhood—an example for my life. Bearing thy name, I will cherish thy memory; and I only ask that the mantle of thy faithful, laborious, zealous life for Jesus may fall on him who, alone of all thy children, survives to call thee blessed.

Though dead, thou dost speak to us—through all the agencies thou didst set in motion—as one who was pre-eminently—

*"Not slothful in business;*

FERVENT IN SPIRIT;

SERVING THE LORD."

The following verses were written at the bedside of Mr. Newkirk, as he lay dying :—

LINES BY REV. M. W. JACOBUS, D. D., LL.D.

Like as a golden shock of corn is ripely gathered home,  
Like as the full-orb'd King of Day comes glowing down the dome,  
So, laden full of years and fruits, the veteran sinks to rest ;  
The foot-sore pilgrim falls asleep upon the Saviour's breast.

His day of death is brought to pass upon his day of birth,  
A second natal day is his, as he falls back to earth ;  
Though *four beyond "threescore and ten"* his earthly birthdays ran,  
'Tis only now that he attains the highest birth of man.

Born by a spiritual birth, near twoscore years ago,  
He's born by a celestial birth, among the angels now ;  
Born to a heritage of bliss, beyond the reach of pain,  
Where sickness, care, and sorrowing toil, shall ne'er be his again.

A Sabbath birthday ! fittest, best, to be his day of death,  
The Saviour's *Rising day*, for him to breathe his dying breath—  
This Sabbath rest of earth, for him to enter into joy ;  
The long week's labors done, to go where *praise* his powers employ.

Last day of Spring ! when sowing time has wholly pass'd away,  
When seeds cast in the furrow, shoot towards their harvest-day ;  
When all the bleak winds, blown at length, have sigh'd them to a  
calm,  
And Summer comes, with fruits and flow'rs, for Nature's happy  
psalm.

Give him his choice of all the days, to have his life depart,  
A Christian life, so brimming full, with works of hand and heart,  
Spring's latest day on earth, to land upon the summer shore—  
Spring's parting Sabbath day, to reach the Sabbath evermore.

Better to such an one the day of death, than day of birth,  
The day of ent'ring Heaven, than the day of ent'ring earth ;  
Better this putting off, than putting on, the coat of mail,  
The day of coming into port, than day of setting sail.

While in the temple that he lov'd, ye worship well to-day—  
He joins the church around the throne, to worship there for aye ;  
He lies in state, and round the bed ye do not well to weep,  
So God, with ministries unknown, *gives His beloved sleep.*

Just at the hour when lab'ring men come home from busy toil,  
Their work laid down, their wages reap'd in products of the soil ;  
Just when the sweet Spring Sabbath sun has come, at length, to set,  
Without a sigh or struggle, the great summons he has met.

Farewell, the city and the church, the home he cherish'd long ;  
Farewell, the poor and the distress'd, whose tears he turn'd to song ;  
Farewell, the widow'd, orphan'd, crush'd, whose many woes he  
bore ;  
Farewell, the Sabbath School belov'd, he'll never enter more.

He's found the City of his God—the Home above the skies ;  
He's greeted now by many whom he bid that Home to prize,  
And, with the children whom he joy'd to gather to the fold,  
He'll sing Hosannas to the Lamb, with raptures all untold.

The Spring already whispers of the Resurrection morn,  
When in that glorious Spring of Life, he shall again be born,  
When the expectant creature earth shall render up her trust,  
And the enfranchised spirit shall reclaim its hallow'd dust.

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The FUNERAL of *Mr. Matthew Newkirk* took place from his residence on Wednesday morning, *June 3*, 1868, at 10 o'clock.

Appropriate passages of Scripture were repeated, and a prayer was offered at the house by the Rev. M. W. Jacobus, D. D., LL.D.

The procession moved in the following order to the Central Presbyterian Church (Eighth and Cherry Streets).

1. Polytechnic College students.
2. Clergymen of different Evangelical churches (about twenty in number).
3. The officiating clergymen: Rev. A. Reed, D. D., accompanied by Rev. Drs. John Maclean, W. Henry Green, and Charles W. Shields, of Princeton, New Jersey.
4. The elders of the church as pall-bearers.
5. The colored men-servants of the family.

6. The family and relatives (in carriages).
7. The deacons and trustees of the church.
8. The teachers of the Sabbath schools.
9. Societies and associations with which Mr.  
Newkirk was connected.
10. A large number of citizens.

The services at the church were as follows:—

Voluntary on the organ—(Dirge).

Singing by the choir—"Come, ye disconsolate."

Prayer by Rev. John Maclean, D. D., President  
of Princeton College.

Reading selections from the Scriptures, by Rev.  
J. M. Crowell, D. D.

Singing—"I would not live alway."

*Address* by Rev. Alexander Reed, D. D.—Pastor.

Singing—"How blest the righteous when he  
dies."

Remarks by Rev. Prof. W. H. Green, D. D.—  
Ex-pastor of the church.

Prayer by Rev. Prof. C. W. Shields, D. D.—Ex-  
pastor of the Second Church.

Benediction by Rev. Dr. Green.

Singing by the choir—"Unveil thy bosom."

(The lid of the coffin was then removed, and those who were present passed around it and took a last look at the deceased.)

The interment took place at Laurel Hill Cemetery. At the grave Dr. Reed offered a prayer, and Dr. Maclean pronounced the benediction.

“And so He giveth His beloved sleep.”

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”

A D D R E S S

OF THE

REV. ALEXANDER REED, D. D.



## A D D R E S S .

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[The Rev. ALEXANDER REED, D. D., made the following address, which is given just as it was delivered, without having been revised or altered.]

LESS than two short months ago we were gathered here, amid similar scenes, for the same sad service. *Here* lay an elder of the church, and just *yonder* sat another elder, among the mourners; and *he* now *lies here*!

Two venerable servants of God—office-bearers in this house—overseers for this fold—intimately identified with this church through its entire history—universally known as our most active and efficient co-workers—*both asleep!* both gone from us to glory within sixty days! “The fathers—where are they?”

It is not strange we weep to-day. We are desolate and sad—very, very desolate! We come like orphan children into this place this morn-

ing; for “since the fathers fell asleep” all around seems dreary and full of gloom. Truly as a *family of mourners*—enduring “sorrow upon sorrow,” we sit to-day again around the coffin.

THEN we sorrowed over the departure of Mr. Barnes—a father and brother beloved in the Lord; and *to-day*, one who was born about two months sooner, and taken away by a better birth two months later, lies before us—whose name is a household word wherever this church of God is known.

*Then* Dr. Green, his former pastor and yours, clearly and tenderly, with a loving heart, reviewed that character and life so eminently pure and true and zealous; and *to-day* it is my sad privilege to remind you briefly concerning this life now ended, and recount a little, as we linger here, the *goodness of God* to *him* and to *us* as He made use of him. Not that I would glorify our departed friend and father—oh no!—but I would “magnify the grace of God which was in him,” which made him what he was that was admirable. It is of the *grace of God* as here exhibited, of which I speak to you.

On the last day of spring 1794 *Matthew New-*

*kirk* was born in Pittsgrove, New Jersey. After sixteen years of country life with his parents, Cornelius and Abigail H. Newkirk, he came to this city in the year 1810, and for more than half a century has been identified with Philadelphia.

In business he was pre-eminently successful; and amid all the changes of fortune of an eventful life never lost his buoyancy of spirit or indomitable energy.

He occupied many important stations and posts of responsibility, as I learn more and more from the public prints. He was the first President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad; a Director of the United States Bank; and one of the city Council Committee to erect Girard College.

Mr. Newkirk was also very active in promoting the moral, literary, and religious interests of the community. He was for a long time identified with the temperance reform, and President of the State Society. For a period of years he gave the use of a public hall for free preaching—especially for the benefit of young men.

At the time of his death he was President of

the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association, the oldest Trustee of Princeton College, and the President of the Polytechnic College of this State.

He was also interested in the boards of our church—most of them from their organization—giving part of an afternoon almost every week to some of their different meetings and committees.

But it is in his character as a *Christian* that we find the most suitable points for contemplation on an occasion such as this.

All other relations cease with the coffin, but those which bind a man to his Creator, God, and Saviour only attain their full fruition when eternity begins.

Our beloved friend and father was an avowed follower of Christ for almost thirty-six years. His first religious impressions date far beyond this, but his public consecration of himself to Christ was in this organization (before this edifice was erected), in the Academy building December 13, 1832. Once in his earlier life his spirit was deeply moved by the words of a hymn read in the evening service of the First

(Presbyterian) Church by the venerable Dr. Wilson—especially the words:—

“My soul, the minutes haste away ;  
Apace comes on th’ important day,  
When in the icy arms of death  
I must give up my vital breath.

“When vast eternity’s in sight ;  
The brightest day, the blackest night ;  
One shock will break the building down  
And let thee into worlds unknown.”

But the *immediate* instrumentality God used for his being brought into the fold was not a sermon, but a conversation with the Rev. Dr. James W. Alexander in a carriage on the way to church, when, in answer to all questions and doubts and excuses, the Dr. earnestly replied: “What is that to thee? follow thou me!” This was the *turning point* in his spiritual history. He resolved now, like Joshua—“let others do as they may, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

His dearly loved friend and Pastor, Mr. Sanford, often urged upon him “the great question,” but his favorite apology was that being

intensely engaged in business life he feared he would be inconsistent and thus do harm.

But God led him to see the fallacy of such reasoning, and to cast himself solely upon Divine grace ; and he was sustained and upheld to the last.

For, while he had his infirmities and sins, against which to battle—and none more conscious of them than he or more ready to confess them—yet, nevertheless, by the grace of God he was enabled to maintain a consistent, earnest, devoted, Christian life to the end of the pilgrimage.

Any one who reflects a moment will appreciate the statement that no man can be guilty of being *eminently successful* in this world in any department of life, without incurring the envy and enmity and usually the cruel censure of other less fortunate strugglers.

Whether statesman or soldier, merchant or even minister at the altar—if he conspicuously succeeds—he will inevitably and certainly bring upon himself the tongue of slander and sinister defamation. The world furnishes no exception to this law. Mr. Newkirk was not an exception,

any more than the blessed Master he served; yet *few* men have lived, amid the heat and strife of so long and so prominent a life, vastly diversified, who have closed a record so *universally approved*. Never "slothful in business," but "fervent in spirit," he endeavored to "serve the Lord." Abundant in labors in secular life, it is no figure to say that *one-third* of his *thoughts* and almost as much of his life work was given to the *cause of Christ* in the world; and this zeal never ceased, until dissolution began, and the tired exhausted body claimed relief in the sleep of death.

But the occasion forbids that I should extendedly analyze his Christian character and life to-day.

While kindred and friends from various places and varied positions in life, in their regard for him we bury to-day, are gathered here; yet it is chiefly as a *church* we are assembled now around this bier. As a church we have sustained a loss; a void is here, that I fear will be vacant long. We are a church of *mourners* here, and, therefore, in regard to his relation to this his long-loved church permit me to utter a few

words as we commune together concerning our common sorrow.

*He loved this Central Church.* He was Secretary of the meeting which organized it, just thirty-six years ago. And the last prayer I heard him offer on his bed of death was for the continued blessing of God upon this church. He was always one of its trustees, long the President of the Board; and one of the first Elders and first Deacons. And to say that he has done *more* work in the service of this church than any man, living or dead, is no unjust pre-eminence; all conversant with the facts will readily admit it.

For more than a quarter of a century his place at both the Wednesday and Friday evening services was *never vacant*, unless illness or absence from the city rendered attendance impossible. No grief, no loss, no "pressure of business" kept him from the place of prayer. Though frequently so busy as to be obliged to return for long hours of work at his store or office after service, yet business was no excuse for absence from the sanctuary; no calamity even was made a plea. He had given himself to the Lord, and that sleepless omniscient eye alone knew how

faithfully he strove to keep his vows. Religion was no form with him, but a living reality; and earnest in all things he was earnest in this.

In the *Sabbath schools* he was a laborious and successful workman. Although connected with the Sabbath school of the *Second Church* more than forty years ago, he did not enter the schools of this church at its first organization; but from the day he did enter it, until he lay down to die, his zeal and toil and devotion knew no cessation, not even a relaxing, until God said, "It is enough, come up higher!"

What memories are awakened in many full hearts here to day, when that loved *upper room* and its scenes are recalled! How he labored there! How he exhorted, and advised, and stimulated, and warned, and encouraged there! What laudable pride he took in the character of that school! How heartily he disapproved of apathy or laggard interest on the part of any teacher or pupil! How nobly he "magnified his office" as a model superintendent! It was no reluctant *duty-driven* service, but a *whole-hearted*, cheerfully-accepted privilege; and he honored the post as it honored him.

It was said of the pulpit of godly Baxter : “There Baxter wept!” and of the lamented Dr. Payson it is said, one of his people pointed to the pulpit and remarked, “There Payson prayed!” So of that school room it may be told, “*There Matthew Newkirk served!*”

And of later years few knew how often he was obliged to rest again and again on those long stairs, as he feebly climbed his way thither and there to *work*. And the last time he stood there, a fortnight ago, only one perhaps knew that he was *led* there *faint* and almost blind ; and then, in “those last words” how he urged renewed diligence, and zeal, and ardor, and referred to himself as about to begin afresh with more life and vigor than ever. The scene—the sequel render the words remarkable ; may they never be forgotten ! It was like the dying soldier leader falling at the front—crying to his comrades, “On ! on ! on ! hold up the banner ! press on in the fight !”

Ah, yes, our Sabbath schools lost a noble leader this week when *he* died ! The church has lost heavily in every department of her worship and work.

I need not speak of his abundant aid in all the *finances* of the church. There is not time, nor is it in place to-day. He loved this church with an ardor that has often astonished the apathetic and indifferent. He could much more easily bear a *personal* reflection than one upon this church. He could scarcely forget it, or forgive it; as he once expressed it, "it was an almost unpardonable sin to attempt to wrong that church." He loved these walls; and surely he verified the Psalmist's words: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." And are not these words also truly applicable and most appropriate:—

"For her my tears shall fall;  
For her my prayers ascend;  
To her my cares and toils be given,  
Till toils and cares shall end."

Yes, this was all true of him. For in the last extended conversation I had with him on that bed of death he remarked, with deepest emotion, "Next to my family, that dear church has the first place in my heart."

The present flourishing condition of the

church, the revival of God's work, the unprecedented large membership and attendance, its entire freedom from debt, and its present beneficence gave him profound comfort and gratification to his last conscious hour.

And now his work is ended! He has left this lower sphere and service. He has gone up higher, to join the elders who preceded him and all "the elders round the throne." And he leaves this work in your hands and mine.

His matchless and unwearied service for the Master in our church, as elsewhere, is all of the past. He has surely *done what he could*.

Seized suddenly by violent inflammatory disease in the night of Thursday, May 21st, the wisest medical skill could not resist God's messenger; and after an illness of ten days—full of years and full of labors—he "fell on sleep," and is now "gathered to his fathers." So severe were his sufferings at times, and so excessive the prostration that conversation with him could not be at any time very extended. But enough was spoken to give abundant assurance of his confident hope—of his being safely sheltered by the "Rock of Ages," his long-loved Saviour.

At the close of a prayer by his pastor, he led the singing of one verse of the hymn—

“Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,  
With all Thy quickening powers,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
In these cold hearts of ours.”

At another time, when asked, “Are you dreading death?” he earnestly replied, “Not at all, not at all; I gave myself to Jesus long, long ago; and I hope I am not mistaken!”

It was an impressive coincidence that he died not only on his *seventy-fourth birthday*, the last day of spring, but also that it was the Holy *Sabbath*, and just as the clock was striking six—the hour when workmen close their labors, toil ends, and rest begins.

His life toil is ended—the worker is released. He worked while the day lasted and the night has come. The great bell of eternity has rung and he has gone home to rest! The endless rest is his! a long, bright, blessed Sabbath day that shall not end.

Friend and father, farewell! We'll meet you on the other shore!

We, my brethren, still remain to toil. We shall go home also, but not now. Here we must work and wait.

“One little hour ! and *then* the glorious crowning—  
The golden harp-strings and the victor’s palm,  
One little hour ! and *then* the Hallelujah !  
Eternity’s long, deep, thanksgiving psalm !”

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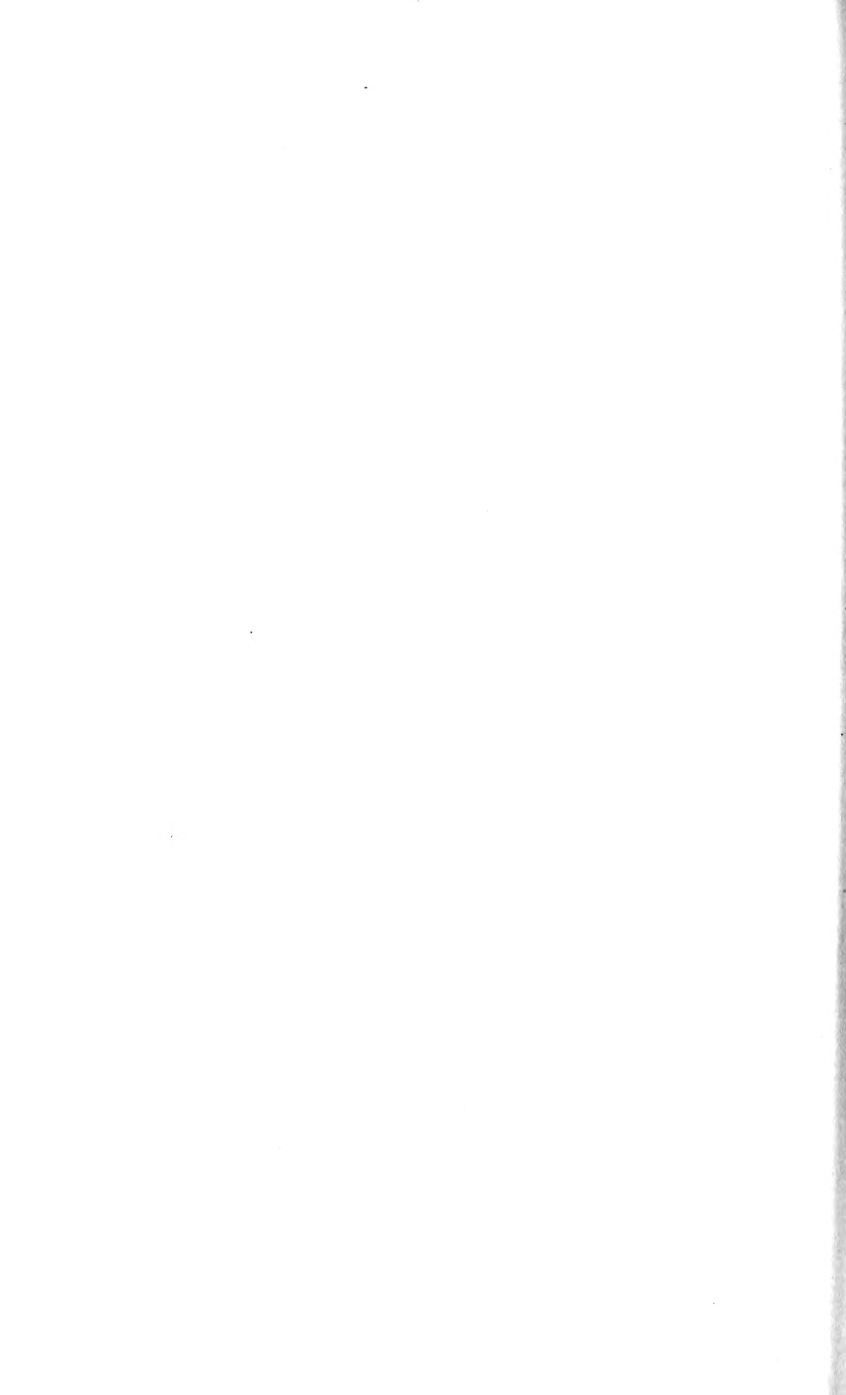
THE Rev. Dr. John Hall, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York city, preached in the Central Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, when the feeling of congregational bereavement was still strong and fresh. His subject was *Christian activity*, having its source in the love of God and its power in living faith. In the application of the principles he had enforced and illustrated from the Scriptures he said:—

“My brethren of this congregation! I feel that I may speak to you with confidence on this subject, for God has already been speaking to you in His providences. He has come into your midst, and taken one from among you who appeared to me to act on these principles with conspicuous fidelity; one whose efforts were not casual and spasmodic, but sustained and constant; one whose zeal did not pass away with the ardor of youth, but who bore fruit in old age; one who maintained to advanced years the

fervor and joyful eagerness of his earlier time, in the Sabbath school and every other congregational labor, and in a wide range of activity outside. He is here no more. You will not again see his form among you. Measuring your feelings that have grown with long years by mine that are founded on a comparatively brief acquaintance, I can conceive how you feel.

“But my object is not to awaken mere human tenderness, but to enforce on conscience the claims of duty. Who will step into the vacant space? Who will hasten to fill up the ranks? Brethren, beloved, who of you will be baptized for the *dead*?”

LETTERS  
OF  
CONDOLENCE.



## LETTERS.

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[N. B.—I take the liberty of inserting extracts of letters sent to the family after the decease of Mr. Newkirk, because they express the judgments of others upon his character, work, and life—and give such estimates of him as would seem not only indelicate, but even partial and prejudiced if expressed by the author.]

From the Rev. W. H. Green, D. D., Prof. in Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey. Ex-pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia.

PRINCETON,

*June 5, 1868.*

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

I had no opportunity to see or speak with you when I was in the city, and could not say to you how deeply I sympathize in your deep

affliction, which is a public loss no less than a private and domestic sorrow. I could never sufficiently express my own personal indebtedness to Mr. Newkirk for his uniform kindness to me from the moment of our earliest acquaintance. His counsel and his aid, his generous support, his thoughtful considerateness, his kindly attentions during the term of my residence in the city were invaluable to me and laid me under untold obligations. His importance to the Central Church as an Elder, a Trustee, a Superintendent of the Sabbath school, his efficiency in sustaining it and advancing its interests and the greatness of the loss it has sustained in his removal, the loss in fact to the boards of our church, and to the whole Christian community, and to every benevolent and holy enterprise you know full as well as I.

His personal relations to myself were most kindly to the last. We remember his last visit to Princeton (April 28, 1868), when he participated in the election of the future President of the College, with peculiar pleasure. We urged him to make his stay with us. This he declined on account of the superior convenience of lodg-

ing with Dr. Maclean, which was nearer the place of meeting. But he dined with us. And the cordiality of his whole manner, the generous warmth with which he pressed us to visit him in the city, and the lively interest he manifested, deeply touched our hearts. I noticed then with pain his growing feebleness; and could not but fear that he was gradually failing. I had no suspicion, however, that the end was so nigh as it has proved to be. May the God of all grace and of all comfort sustain you in your deep affliction, in that darkness and loneliness so peculiar to just such a bereavement as this, which nothing but His own heavenly light can irradiate, and His own blessed companionship alone can cheer. With the deepest and most tender sympathy,

I am, yours truly,

W. HENRY GREEN.

From Rev. E. P. Humphrey, D. D.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,

*June* 10, 1868.

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

Will you allow me to take a place among the many thousands of God's people who unite in blessing the memory of your venerable husband? I counted him as among my most honored and valued friends. But what is more, the whole church to which he belonged and which he served so faithfully, throughout the whole land, counted him as one of its standard bearers, a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost. It would be useless for me to point out to you the sources from which you may take abundant consolation in this bereavement. Great is your loss—how much greater his gain!

That the great Head of the church may minister to you the grace of consolation, and every grace springing from the hope, and looking unto the renewal of life eternal is the fervent wish of thousands. As one of these I remain,

Your faithful friend,  
EDWARD P. HUMPHREY.

From Rev. Theo. Ledyard Cuyler, D. D.,  
Pastor of La Fayette Avenue Presbyterian  
Church, Brooklyn, New York.

136 OXFORD STREET, BROOKLYN,  
*June 4, 1868.*

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

For many a day I have not read the announcement of the death of *any* friend with as much sadness as I felt to-day when I heard that your beloved husband is no more.

I recall now the pleasant hours I spent with him in past years, and the evening last winter when we sat up till midnight to talk over those great questions of religion and reform in which he felt so deep an interest. God has taken away no more faithful servant than he from His bereaved Church for a long time; your husband has indeed gone as "a shock of corn fully ripe" to his rest and his reward.

Accept my most heartfelt sympathies in your bereavement, and present them to my brother and co-worker, Mr. Matthew Newkirk, Jr. May he long be spared to preach Jesus!

I have just sent a brief sketch of Mr. New-

kirk to our "National Temperance Advocate" in New York. Amid the many who mourn the departure of your honored husband, to none will his memory be more bright and sacred than to  
Your friend and his,

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

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From the Rev. M. W. Jacobus, D. D., LL.D., inclosing the letter of Rev. Dr. J. F. Stearns, Moderator, and the Resolutions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in session at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1868.

ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA,

*June 8, 1868.*

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

I beg the liberty to inclose to you the accompanying letter received from Rev. Dr. J. F. Stearns, Moderator of the General Assembly (New School). I addressed to him a telegram of our dear Mr. Newkirk's death which he promptly announced to the Assembly. He has also expressed his personal esteem for our de-

parted one and his sympathy for you and yours in very admirable terms.

I have inclosed to you the Resolutions passed by the State Sabbath School Convention assembled in Pittsburg, in accordance with a despatch which I sent of the news to the President of the County Association here. Besides the Resolutions, the most express and special tributes were paid to the deceased president, by prominent members from different parts of the State; and at the hour of his funeral, the convention joined in singing "*I would not live alway*," while it was sung, you remember, at the church in the funeral service. It is truly gratifying to his family and connections that such reverent respect was, and is, paid to his precious memory.

I preached yesterday morning in reference to him from the text in Revelations xiv. 13: "And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead," &c.

Fondly yours,

M. W. JACOBUS.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY,

*June 3, 1868.*

MY DEAR SIR.

Your telegram announcing the decease of our esteemed and valued friend, Matthew Newkirk, Esq., was received with sadness, and I took a mournful pleasure in complying with your request. It certainly required no apology, for he had numerous friends everywhere. To myself one of the pleasantest features of my connection with the Board of Trustees (Princeton College), has been the opportunity it afforded for frequent intercourse with one so wise, so warm-hearted, so genial, so devoted to the interests intrusted to us, so eminent in all the qualities of the truly Christian gentleman.

Please express, when you have opportunity, my warmest sympathies to Mrs. Newkirk, and the bereaved son and daughter. If it is sad to part with one so valued, it is cheering to reflect that after a life of distinguished fidelity he is safe home in the house of his heavenly Father.

Very respectfully yours,

J. F. STEARNS.

From Rev. Dr. Denham, of Londonderry,  
Ireland.

DERRY,  
*August, 6, 1868.*

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

On Monday last I returned home after an absence of four months, during which time I have been laid aside from work under the hand of that all wise and loving Master who has a sovereign right to say to any or all His servants, "go and work," or "cease from working." A few days before my return I had a newspaper with the beautiful and appropriate lines written by Dr. Jacobus inclosed, which announced the sad loss you have sustained in the removal of him with whom you had journeyed for so many years through the weary wilderness of this world. Since the return of my beloved wife and myself from your great and highly favored country oft have we been speaking of its institutions and its people, but of none more frequently or with more pleasure and feelings of gratitude than of our friends in Philadelphia, and very specially of yourself and your venerable and noble hearted

husband. Often during the past year has it been my privilege to address meetings in which I was expected to give details of the work which I saw carried on for Christ and His cause in America, and on such occasions, when speaking of the labors undertaken, especially by the lay members of the churches, my memory almost invariably called up the benevolent countenance and the untiring zeal of the venerated and beloved patriarch in whose hospitable mansion it was our privilege to abide while in your city, and who, under the power of Christian love, while directing and managing the important work of so many active teachers in your great Sabbath school, seemed to forget or not to feel the weakness or weariness usually experienced in old age. Now His Master's voice has been heard saying, "Come up hither," and we may at least try and conceive of the unutterable joy with which his emancipated spirit replied, "I come—I come." Though enjoying one of the happiest homes on earth, made largely so by your loving care, yet better than any on earth are the mansions of which Christ once said, "I go to prepare them for my disciples." And,

now, dear sister, while I know you mourn, it is not, thanks be to our Redeeming God, as those who have no hope; but you can look on in full assurance that you shall meet again with him you loved so long, and will love forever, and with whom you will take part in songs even sweeter than you sang together on earth.

I am ever your grateful friend, and brother in Christ,

JAMES DENHAM.

2 Timothy iv. 22.

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From Mrs. Dr. J. ———.

*June 6, 1868.*

DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

. . . . .  
 . . . . My dear bereaved friend! how can words express my feeling for your loss, and my heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow? The void made in your home, I know, is irreparable; nothing earthly can ever fill it; but think *what he was, what he accomplished*—though it makes

your loss the greater, does it not make your consolations more exceedingly abound? Oh, his *gain*! “Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!” Can we even conceive the *fulness* of his joy—SATISFIED, for he has “awaked in his Saviour’s likeness.” We cannot mourn for him, but we may mourn for ourselves. I ask the privilege of mingling my tears with yours, for I do indeed feel bereaved. I shall ever cherish with gratitude the memory of my sojourn with you last fall. How much I saw Mr. Newkirk, and how much I learned to love him! How lovely was his Christian home character; how strong and unwavering his love for the Saviour’s cause; how generous his hospitality; how ardent and helpful his sympathy for the poor and the distressed; how tender his interest in *woman*, her weakness, her sufferings, her wrongs! In no one else have I ever seen this trait so beautifully developed, and it seemed to me then as the finishing touch to his Christian symmetrical character. I *cannot* think of him as dead. I remember him as the patient Christian, suffering under the infirmities of the flesh; and now I love to think of him as a

“redeemed saint” among the “hundred and forty and four thousand” having the Father’s name written in their foreheads and singing that song, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.” “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.” . . . . .

With sincerest love and sympathy, yours,

S. H. J.

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From Rev. J. H. McIlvaine, D. D., Professor in the College of New Jersey.

PRINCETON,

*June 5, 1868.*

MY DEAR MADAM.

It is with sincere and deep grief that I have learned of the decease of Mr. Newkirk. . . . . It was my earnest hope that Mr. Newkirk would rally from his physical depression of this winter, and enjoy many more years of his

useful and honored life. But God's ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts. One great and unspeakable consolation is that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts. No doubt God took His servant to Himself at the very moment of time when it was best for him that he should go. He had enjoyed a long and distinguished life, such as few men have ever had. Especially was it distinguished for devotion to the Master and His cause. I think it was impossible to know your honored husband and not be assured that the ruling passion of his life was the desire to promote the interests of the Kingdom of God on earth. This desire seemed to animate him in all his plans and activities; and in order to realize it, he brought to bear all the powers of his extraordinary mind. Among all the traits of his rich and varied character, none was so striking as that of *Christian activity*, directed and controlled by mental abilities of remarkable power. I think if we could separate from the church of God all that has been accomplished

by your husband, directly and indirectly, we should hardly know it as the same church. . . .

I am faithfully yours,

J. H. McILVAINE.

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From Rev. D. A. Cunningham, Pastor of the Spring Garden Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

DEAR MADAM.

. . . . .  
 . . . . . It can be truly said of him (Mr. Newkirk), "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." I was present at the last commencement of Princeton College, and Mr. Newkirk and I came home together. I shall never forget the delightful Christian conversation we had; and he seemed to me then like a shock of corn fully ripe for the garnerers of glory. He spoke about many things in his own Christian experience—also, about the interests of the College, and the precious revivals that had

been in old "Nassau Hall"—also about the joy it afforded him that his son had given himself to the ministry of reconciliation. Little did I think then that before the next commencement he would be in the land of "Beulah," the home of the redeemed. We shall miss him in our church courts on earth, in our benevolent institutions, and in the generous warm-hearted hospitality which he ever manifested to the ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ. . . . Thanks be unto God for the life and labors of such a faithful servant on earth.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID A. CUNNINGHAM.

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From Rev. Alfred Cookman, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE,

*June 1, 1868.*

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

I have just seen the announcement of the death of your dearly beloved husband. He was

one of my kindest and best friends. Whenever or wherever I met him he had some encouraging or affectionate word to express. My recollections of him are peculiarly pleasant. Sharing then the sense of bereavement that is so generally felt, I obey a Christian impulse in expressing to you my high appreciation of his many virtues, and my deep sympathy for you and yours in this hour of unprecedented trial. . . .

. . . Your husband's life was *a great success*. As I think of it I cannot withhold the sentiment, "Well done! good and faithful servant!" In the front rank of the sacramental host—a veteran in the service of salvation's captain—always true to his colors, he was faithful to the last, and died with the armor on, covered with the glory that cometh down from God. Susanna Wesley said, "When I am dead let my children gather 'round my bed and sing a Psalm of praise." Oh, as I remember the blessed past and glorious future of your precious husband, my cherished friend, I cannot refrain from the exclamation, "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost."

You are highly favored among women—to

have been the companion of such an husband.

. . . . .

If it is possible I want to be present on Wednesday morning and drop a tear to the memory of *one of the best of men*. . . . .

Your Christian brother,

ALFRED COOKMAN.

—

From the Rev. S. B. Barnitz, of the Lutheran Church.

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA,

July 23, 1868.

MY DEAR MRS. NEWKIRK.

. . . . .

. . . If ever the consolations of the gospel abounded in view of death, they do to you, and you are enabled to rejoice amid your tears. With Paul, Mr. Newkirk could say: "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain;" for his whole life was devoted to Christ in an *unwonted* degree for this age of the world—and I *know* that "to die" has been to him infinite "GAIN."

All his life he was laying up treasure in Heaven —“durable riches and righteousness”—and now he has gone to *possess* and enjoy them. Death has only gotten the *body*, and that only for a short season—the Spirit has gone to be “forever with the Lord.” You sorrow not as those without hope, for the “Pilgrim” has gone to be “with Christ” which is “far better” than to remain here amid the groaning and travailing of a burdened creation. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love him.” Those things Mr. Newkirk is now glorying in, and we may rather envy him than seek to bring him back. We “shall go to him; but he shall not return to us!” . . . The members of the “*Newkirk* class” of my mission school are doing well.

With true sympathy, I am very truly yours in Christ,

SAMUEL B. BARNITZ.



RESOLUTIONS  
OF  
C O N D O L E N C E .



## RESOLUTIONS.

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RESOLUTIONS adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, sitting in Albany, New York, May, 1868.

*“Resolved,* That this Assembly has heard with deep emotion the announcement of the death of Matthew Newkirk, Esq., of Philadelphia; an eminent and distinguished Christian gentleman, who has during a long and useful life, rendered great and valuable services to our church, as a Trustee of the General Assembly, a Director in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and as an officer and member of several of the Boards of the church.”

*“Resolved,* That the Stated Clerk send a copy of this minute to the family of the deceased.”

A true extract from the minutes of the General Assembly, Monday, June 1, 1868.

ALEXANDER T. MCGILL,

*Stated Clerk.*

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Resolutions of the Session of the Central Presbyterian Church.

*Extract from the Minutes.*

As a session sorely bereaved, we here record our expression of profound sorrow occasioned by the death of our venerable and venerated brother Matthew Newkirk. Within two brief months he has been called to follow our equally beloved brother, Rufus L. Barnes, into the heavenly home of eternal peace.

We have truly endured "sorrow upon sorrow" in this second sad bereavement. Yet we mourn with hope; we are not ignorant concerning them which are asleep; we are confident that our loss is their eternal gain, and we bow submissive to the will of the *Great Head* of the church, who alone determines the *period*, as well

as the place, in which his servants shall serve him.

In *Matthew Newkirk* we ever recognized the ardent active laborer in the vineyard of the *Lord*. His brotherly kindness, his energy, his wisdom, his devotion, his promptitude, his earnestness, and his long-continued and unabated zealous service in this church, in all departments of its work and worship during his entire Christian life, shall be ever cherished by us in affectionate remembrance, and intensify the grief we experience in his death.

And we devoutly pray that grace may be given those of us who remain, proportionate to our increased duties and responsibilities, and that a double portion of *God's Spirit* may be granted us, that we may be faithful overseers—that we may imitate that which was admirable in our departed brethren, and follow them as they followed *Christ*, admonished thus deeply and doubly that we too shall soon be called to give an account of our stewardship.

GEORGE C. LANCASTER,

*Clerk pro tem.*

ALEXANDER REED,

*Moderator.*

Resolutions of the Deacons of the Central Presbyterian Church.

At a meeting of the Board of Deacons of the Central Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, held on the first day of June, 1868, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

WHEREAS: it has pleased an all wise and merciful Providence to remove from the scene of his earthly labor to his heavenly reward our friend and brother in Christ, *Matthew Newkirk*, for so many years a ruling elder in this church, be it therefore

*Resolved*, 1st. That in this solemn dispensation of Divine providence we recognize the voice of the great Head of the Church, calling us to renewed earnestness and zeal, in the works of faith and labors of love, which were so strikingly characteristic of our Christian friend and brother.

*Resolved*, 2d. That his record in connection with this church, as one of its founders and as an office bearer for more than thirty years, is that of an earnest and faithful servant of our common

Lord, and co-laborer in his vineyard. And while we bow with unquestioning submission to this afflictive dispensation, yet we cannot but feel that, in the death of Mr. Newkirk, our church and Sabbath school suffer a loss which we fear it will be difficult to repair.

*Resolved*, 3d. That to his bereaved family we extend our deepest sympathies, and commend them to the tender and unfailing care of Him who is the God of the widow and the Father of the fatherless.

*Resolved*, 4. That these resolutions be entered on the minutes of this board, and a copy of the same be presented to the family of the deceased.

WILLIAM N. ATTWOOD,

*President.*

M. C. CADMUS,

*Secretary.*



Resolutions of the Trustees of the Central Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Central Presbyterian Church, held on

Monday evening, June 1st, 1868, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted :—

*Whereas*, It has pleased the Great Head of the Church to call away the venerable President of this Board, who has been identified with the Central Presbyterian Church since its organization, and to whose faithful and efficient labors and unbounded liberality it is largely indebted under God for its present position of influence and power ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recognize the value of his services in the cause of Christ, and his devotion to the interest of this Church, and his wisdom, prudence, and sound judgment in all our deliberations.

*Resolved*, That in the death of MATTHEW NEWKIRK, the Central Presbyterian Church has lost an efficient officer and faithful friend, whose best powers of heart and mind, sanctified to the work of his Master, were cheerfully devoted to promoting its welfare.

*Resolved*, That as a mark of respect for the memory of our late President, we attend the funeral in a body.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Preamble and Resolutions be presented to the widow and family, with an expression of our deep sympathy in their sad bereavement.

M. P. HUTCHINSON,  
*President.*

THOMAS ALLMAN,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

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### Resolutions of the Sanford Sabbath School Association.

At a meeting of the Sanford Sabbath School Association, of the Central Presbyterian Church, held June 3, 1868, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

*Whereas*: It has pleased God to remove from our midst our beloved and honored Superintendent, Mr. Matthew Newkirk, who for many years was untiring in his work and labor of love amongst us; devoting his time, talents, and means in promoting the growth, efficiency, and welfare of our Sunday school; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recognize the hand of our

Heavenly Father in this afflictive dispensation of His providence, and bow submissively to His will.

*Resolved*, That we, as Teachers of the Sanford Sabbath School Association sincerely and devoutly thank our Heavenly Father for His goodness and loving kindness to us in raising up and giving to us, for so long a time, one who so faithfully counselled and cherished us; who cheered and encouraged us and our dear scholars with words of kindness and of love, and who was ever ready to lend a helping hand in every time of need; and in every way zealous and earnest in seeking our comforts, our happiness, and our good.

*Resolved*, That we will esteem it our precious privilege, according to the grace of God given to us, to seek more and more to cultivate a spirit of earnest devotion to the Master, in the work which He has given us to do in the Sunday school; and that to this end we will cherish in loving hearts the counsels we have received from our departed Superintendent; praying that God would bless them to us, and through us, to those committed to our care.

*Resolved*, That we convey to Mrs. Newkirk and the other members of the family our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the great loss which they have sustained; and commending them to the God of all grace and consolation, whom they love and serve, trust they will in their experience, have verified to them the words of the Lord Jesus—"I will not leave you comfortless."

ALEX. REED,

*President.*

WM. JAS. ATTWOOD,

*Secretary.*

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Resolutions adopted by the Presbyterian Board of Publication.

The following minute was adopted by the Presbyterian Board of Publication, at its annual meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 1868.

*Resolved*, That the Board, while bowing submissively to the behests of infinite goodness and wisdom, which have within a few years taken away so many of its old and attached members, hereby expresses its deep emotions of sorrow at

the removal by death, on Sabbath the 31st ult., at the good old age of seventy-four years, of Matthew Newkirk, Esq., of this city, who was one of the original corporators of the Board, and had been one of its members from its beginning until now. Always a fast and generous friend of the institution, he had assiduously sought to promote its interests, and by his uniform warmth of heart and courtesy of manner, had greatly endeared himself to his associates who now mourn his loss, as well as to the entire Presbyterian church to which he had given no small share of his cares and labors.

*Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary communicate a copy of this Minute to the family of the deceased, and another copy to the Presbyterian.

A true copy.

WILLIAM E. SCHENCK,  
*Corresponding Secretary.*

Resolutions adopted by the Board of Domestic Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

At a meeting of the Board of Domestic Missions, held at the Mission House, on the tenth inst., the following minute was adopted, ordered to be published, and a copy sent to the family of the deceased.

*Whereas:* It has pleased God to remove from this world our late highly-esteemed associate, Mr. Matthew Newkirk, who was for many successive years a member of the Board; a faithful member of its Executive Committee; and the President of the Board of Trustees; therefore,

*Resolved,* That this Board records its grateful testimony to the long and useful service which was rendered to it, and through it to the Kingdom of Christ, by His venerable servant now departed. And that while we bow with submission to that sovereign will which has taken him from us, we remember with thankfulness to God, the many years of active zeal and enterprise, during which he was enabled to serve the church through this Board. He was punctual in his attendance, liberal and aggres-

sive in his views, thoughtful and kind in his sympathy with every faithful missionary, and always anxious to increase the efficiency of the Board, and our country with the tidings of Salvation.

*Resolved*, That we tender our sympathies to the bereaved family of Mr. Newkirk in this the day of their sorrow.

PHILADELPHIA, *August 11, 1868.*

(*Signed*)

JAS. M. CROWELL,  
ALEX. REED,  
C. W. ADAMS.

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Resolutions of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association.

“MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS.”

*Whereas*, It has pleased God in his unerring wisdom to take unto Himself his friend and servant, the beloved President of this Association, MATTHEW NEWKIRK :

*Resolved*, That while we cannot but have a keen sense of loss in being deprived of such an

efficient, careful, and thorough helper, especially at this point in the Sabbath school history of the State, we yet bow in humble reverence to the Divine Will.

*Resolved*, That we cherish the example of our departed brother, in his unaffected piety; in the gentleness, simplicity, and purity of his Christian character; in his untiring activity in the Christian life; in his tender love for little children; in his abounding hospitality to all the friends of Christ, without distinction, and unstinted liberality in the promotion of the Sabbath school work.

*Resolved*, That cherishing his good name as a precious legacy, we will, God helping, go forward in the work to which for more than half a century he gave himself with such unselfish devotion.

*Resolved*, That we tender to the widow and relatives of our beloved brother deceased, our loving sympathy, and pray that the consolations of Christ may be abundantly ministered to them in this hour of their trial.

Also, *Resolved*, subsequently, that an engrossed copy of the above be presented to the family of

the deceased ; and, also, that they be read as far as possible by the Superintendents to all the Sabbath schools of the State.

True extract from the Minutes.

GEO. A. PELTZ,  
*President.*

Attest—I. NEWTON BAKER,  
*Secretary of the Fourth Annual Convention  
of the Pennsylvania Sabbath School Association.*

PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA,  
*June 3, 1868.*

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Resolutions adopted by the Trustees of the Polytechnic College of the State of Pennsylvania.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Polytechnic College of the State of Pennsylvania, held on the third day of June, A. D. 1868, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

*Whereas*, By the recent decease of Matthew Newkirk, Esq., the distinguished President of the College since its organization, A. D. 1853,

this Board feel that they have lost a most active and efficient colleague, and the community a kind, laborious, and generous friend ; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That by his demise not only has the College been deprived of one of its earliest, most zealous, and most liberal supporters, but the cause of technical and industrial education of an appreciative, earnest, and devoted advocate.

*Resolved*, That by his demise an indefatigable and illustrious co-operator has been taken from and lost to the founders and friends of the Public Improvements of Pennsylvania, and of the sister States.

*Resolved*, further, That Prof. Alfred L. Kennedy, M. D., and the Secretary of this Board be and hereby are appointed a Committee to tender the bereaved widow and family of the deceased, the deep sympathy and condolence of this Board in their affliction, and also to present them with a suitable copy of this, and the foregoing Resolutions.

JOHN McINTYRE,  
*Secretary of the Board.*

Resolutions adopted by the Trustees and Managers of the Camden Home for Friendless Children.

*Whereas*, We are called upon to consider the sad event of the death of Matthew Newkirk, Esq., which occurred on last Sabbath evening, the 31st ult.:

And *Whereas*, he was an honored and beloved member of the Board of Trustees, and for the first two years after the organization of the Home, its earnest and efficient presiding officer; therefore,

*Resolved*, That while we reverently submit to and acknowledge the dispensation which has taken by death our revered and highly esteemed friend and associate, Matthew Newkirk, it is, nevertheless, our duty and privilege to give expression to our unfeigned sorrow in the bereavement which we have been called to experience.

*Resolved*, That while humbly acquiescing in God's righteous providence in the removal of one of our number so influential for good, it is also a proper time to give expression to our gratitude that we were permitted to enjoy his

wise and hearty co-operation in the organization and successful establishment of this Institution.

*Resolved*, That we deeply and sincerely sympathize with Mrs. Newkirk in her sad bereavement, and invoke on her behalf Divine consolation and the abiding assurance that her Heavenly Father will, through all of life's future journey, sustain and cheer her with His presence and love.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Minute, properly engrossed and signed, be presented to Mrs. Newkirk.

Unanimously adopted in Special Joint Meeting.

*June 6, 1868.*

Signed by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Managers.





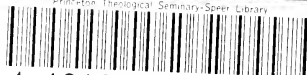








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